

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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SMALL EXHIBITION AT MUSEUM OF MODERN ART SHOWS INTEGRATION OF HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT

Stove, bathtub, cupboard and closet can no longer live lives of rugged individualism as in the Victorian era. In the modern house these objects are welded into a unified whole so that the house itself becomes a complete living unit rather than an enclosure for separate and unrelated items of equipment. This is the subject of a small exhibition Integrated Building: Kitchen, Bathroom and Storage, opening in a first floor gallery of the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, Wednesday, February 21. *Closing - May 13*

Three miniature models, several pieces of unit furniture, and photographs mounted on five large display panels show how the individual stove, bathtub, cupboard and closet can be subordinated to an overall plan, smoothly functioning in the interrelated activities of domestic life. Designs for post-war manufacture are shown, as well as photographs of concrete achievements. Intelligent solutions are dramatized by comparison with illustrations of illogical practices.

Included in the exhibition are examples of kitchens and bathrooms designed for manufacture in one piece--a "mechanical core" ready to build into the house; also kitchens composed of movable, interchangeable units; and bathrooms in which standard equipment has been so well coordinated that the effect, both in efficiency and appearance, is almost that of unit equipment. The mechanical core idea is illustrated by a scale model of a post-war design by Brooks Cavin for the incorporation of utilities in a single prefabricated wall unit with bathroom fixtures built in on one side, cooking facilities on the other. Another variation on the mechanical core principle is the kitchen-laundry wall unit designed for the Ladies' Home Journal by Huson Jackson.

Answers to storage problems are shown as falling into two main types: first, built-in cupboards and shelves, hand-tailored by architect and carpenter to the special requirements of the house-owner; and, second, flexible, interchangeable, prefabricated units such as those used to make up the Storage Wall designed by George Nelson and Henry Wright for the Architectural Forum and Life. A scale model of this is included in the exhibition. Another storage solution, shown at full scale, is the unit furniture of Saarinen and Eames which received first prize in the Museum's Organic Design Competition of 1941.

The exhibition, prepared by the Museum's Departments of Architecture and Industrial Design, is the second to be shown in their new permanent gallery. The first small show in the series, Building with Wood, has just closed.